

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**DECEMBER 13, 2000**

**NOON**

**SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

**PRESENT:** G. Totman, B. Blanchard, C. Evans, T. Joseph, N. Schuler

**STAFF:** J. Beach, Stop-DWI Coordinator; S. Robinson, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinator; O. Mack, OAR; L. Eaton, Purchasing Department; B. Benjamin, Deputy County Administrator; B. Richmond, Criminal Justice Center Coordinator; L. Shurtleff, Assistant Fire Coordinator; J. Miller, Fire Coordinator; P. Meskill, Sheriff

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting opened at 12:04 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the minutes of November 9, 2000, as submitted.

**PURCHASING**

**AWARD OF BID – PRISONER TRANSPORT VAN**

**RESOLUTION NO.      AWARD OF BID – NEW AND UNUSED CARGO VAN CHASSIS AND FIBERGLASS PRISONER TRANSPORT INSERT**

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice to vote.

WHEREAS, The Department of Finance - Division of Purchasing has duly advertised for bids for a new and unused cargo van chassis and fiberglass prisoner transport insert for the purpose of transporting prisoners by the Sheriff's Office, and

WHEREAS, five (5) bids for the new and unused cargo van chassis, and three (3) bids for the fiberglass prisoner transport insert were received, and publicly opened on November 29, 2000, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, further, by the Public Safety Committee that the bid for the new and unused cargo van chassis, be awarded to Maguire Ford of Ithaca, NY, as the lowest responsible bidder with a bid price of \$20,709.00.

RESOLVED, further, by the Public Safety Committee that the bid for the fiberglass prisoner transport insert be awarded to Havis-Shields Equipment Corporation of Warminster, PA, as the lowest responsible bidder with a bid price of \$9,981.00

RESOLVED, further that the funds are available in the Sheriff's budget, account 3150.52231.

**OAR UPDATE**

Mr. Mack reported that activities are going well in his agency. He stated that the agency is on or above target for most categories. He said that recently the agency's contract was discussed with the County and the objectives for service units will be the same for 2001. He said that if the new alternatives to incarceration initiatives have an impact on services, the objectives will be revisited. Mr. Mack said that monthly meetings are now being held with his office and jail officials. They will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. The group has been discussing better ways of communication between the two agencies and the lines of communication are open and he hopes that they continue to improve.

## **PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Leinthal was unable to attend today's meeting. Her written report is as follows:

I'm sorry I can't be at the meeting on Thursday, but I have a conflict. I have a meeting with Judges Sherman and Rowley with regard to getting the Drug Courts underway.

Announcements for the PS Committee: Patricia Galbraith, Sr. PO for JISP, is retiring on December 29th. We will hold off filling her position until we have a new Civil Service list for Sr. PO...in part because we have no office to put a new person in. We really need to do something about office space, especially as we do not see having any one officer or program permanently ensconced in the Day Reporting Center.

Tina Northrop, Supervisor, had a baby boy on November 29th. Ethan Thomas Northrop, 21" and 8# 15oz. Mother and baby fine. She will be out until around March 1st, so I am covering her workload and directly supervising her unit.

Electronic monitoring is going well, though numbers are down, hovering around 5-6 each month. We had one instance where an individual tried messing with the bracelet with varying degrees of success. He was violated and went to jail.

Please advise as to the schedule for meetings next year.

## **JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE**

Ms. Richmond said that things are not moving forward as quickly as she would like due to some space considerations and not knowing where the Center will be housed. She said she will be meeting with Judge Rowley and the Family Court Team along with the Day Reporting Subcommittee to move some of the pieces forward and work on some of the components of the Justice Center. She noted it is difficult to work on a timeline without having a location.

Ms. Blanchard asked if the Old Library is still being considered. Mr. Benjamin stated that discussions at the Space Study Committee this morning changed things and the Space Study Committee asked that options be brought back to them. He said that he had discussed looking for space approximate to or contiguous to the current Drug Court, or possibly space in Center Ithaca with administrative space off to one side. He said that there has been some concern about what this will do to the image of Center Ithaca. Over the next couple of weeks options will be considered. He said that the stakeholders are asking for a firm location downtown within close proximity to the courts and with some sense of permanency. He said that the current Drug Court was reluctant to move into the "Old Library" if it was only going to be for a year. He said that when looking at space he will be looking for something that will have a two to three-year type of lease to provide stability to the program. He said not having a location is causing some programmatic problems with getting things started and a location needs to be identified as soon as possible.

Mr. Benjamin said that he has been having discussions with the Budget and Fiscal Policy Chairman and the Finance Director on how to pay for a different location. He said Board action will be needed to authorize a lease.

Mrs. Schuler asked if the City has been contacted in regards to our space needs. She said that they did an inventory of available property downtown and may be of help. Mr. Benjamin said that he has been talking with Gary Ferguson, Director of the Ithaca Downtown Partnership and he has also had discussions with Mack Travis.

Ms. Blanchard asked if proximity to the courts is the biggest issue. Mr. Benjamin said that is the biggest issue. He said he has been talking with Judge Rowley who has indicated that the closeness to the courts is critical to the success of Drug Court. He explained that some individuals report to the center for testing prior to reporting to court and this has

worked very well in them cause and effect of their actions. He said that there is also concern that the Center be located in close walking distance to other agencies as well.

Ms. Blanchard asked how much space is needed for the Center. Mr. Benjamin stated that originally he had considered 10,000 square feet, but the it would be possible to house the Center within 7,000 square feet.

Mr. Mack asked if the initiatives are on hold under a location is found. Ms. Richmond stated that those that have a direct relationship with the Center will be placed on hold. She said that Drug Court will run concurrent to the Center and those that do not have a direct relationship to the Center could start sooner.

Ms. Blanchard asked who will make the decision on the location of the Center. Mr. Benjamin stated that the Space Needs Committee is working to meet the needs of a variety of agencies. He said that Ms. Mink has indicated that this will very quickly become a budget issue for the County. Mr. Joseph stated that during the budget process housing the Center in the Old Library was approved and that could still happen if there is no other interest in that location. He said that to move the Center anywhere else would require Board approval because there will need to be a request for funding.

## **STOP-DWI UPDATE**

Mr. Beach distributed his monthly statistics and noted the last page has a chart that has arrests broken down by municipality. He said the Sheriff's Department is doing an excellent job of applying their resources to all municipalities within the County.

Mr. Beach also noted that the New York State Stop-DWI Program was recognized on December 1<sup>st</sup> by the President's Commission Against Drunk Driving as being the most effective anti-drunk driving program in the Country and this is a wonderful commendation not only for the Stop-DWI Programs across the State, but also the county legislatures' that have supported the programs over the last 20 years.

Mrs. Schuler stated that based on the chart that was distributed that everyone in the Sheriff's Department is doing the work of both the regular and special patrols. She asked if it is necessary to continue the special patrol. Mr. Meskill stated that the patrol is useful, but there are very few individuals who are interested in doing the work. Mr. Beach stated that this is a problem nationwide, the deputies assigned to the special patrols often "burn-out". The hours are not good and the people that are dealt with are often difficult. He stated that Sheriff Meskill has worked to reconfigure the patrol to make it more enticing to his staff and this is a positive step, but deputies still continue to get tired of doing the work.

Mr. Joseph asked if the special patrol is being run all the time. Mr. Meskill stated that it is and it also provides backup to other deputies. He said the position is valuable because it saves on overtime in other areas.

Ms. Blanchard asked if people are being arrested, if it really matters which patrol is making the arrest. Mr. Meskill stated that it shouldn't matter. He noted that he has changed the program three times in three years and continues to try and find methods to make it work.

Mr. Joseph stated that when the position was created it was done with the idea that DWI arrests were down and improvement was needed. He said the results improved initially, but have since gone down and the regular patrols that weren't making the arrests are now doing so. He said that the question is whether or not to continue the patrol, but the answer is that tactics are being changed within the department, arrests are improving on other patrols and this is effective.

Mr. Meskill expressed concern about another department making reports each month about his department's activities and said that this is awkward to him. Mrs. Schuler stated that when she asked the question she was not being critical of the department, but looking at the arrest trends.

## **FIRE AND DISASTER AND EMS**

Mr. Miller stated that the centralization of the dispatch operation continues to move forward. He said a meeting was held this morning to discuss policies of the new operation. The phone lines have been installed, the application for the NYSPIN terminal has been approved and terminal should be installed by mid-February. The transfer of personnel has been completed and meetings are being held with those individuals to get a better understanding of how the Sheriff's dispatch operation was handled. He said that the transition should be complete by January 10, 2001, and the overall project is in good shape.

Ms. Blanchard stated that at this Tuesday's COMCAP meeting Mr. Miller gave that same report. At that time the COMCAP Committee determined that they would work toward making a decision on the location of the centralized dispatch center by the end of January.

## **ASSIGNED COUNSEL**

Ms. Hughes was unable to attend today's meeting. Mrs. Schuler reported that at the last Advisory Board on Indigent Representation there was discussion about distributing a survey to those individuals you have received assigned counsel services.

## **DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINSTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Benjamin stated that during the 2001 budget process the Board had to take into consideration what would happen to the administrative/clerical gap that was going to be left once the Sheriff's dispatchers were transferred. He said that the Board approved \$143,000 in contingency money with the understanding that a plan be put in place to handle that problem. He said that a proposal has been put together that would take all of the existing clerical personnel to 40 hours, and hire one administrative assistant and one deputy sheriff. This proposal was considered and approved by the Budget and Fiscal Policy Committee last week and if approved today it will go to the full Board December 19<sup>th</sup>. He noted that for the year 2002 the amount of the target request is lower than the initial contingency amount because there are one-time expenses that will need to be paid for.

## **RESOLUTION NO. – APPROPRIATION OF CONTINGENT FUND FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT POSITIONS AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 2002 TARGET**

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County will be transferring four dispatchers from the Sheriff's Department to the Fire Coordinator's Department in 2001 to further the goal of consolidating all public safety dispatching in the County, and

WHEREAS, \$242,674 was already transferred from the Sheriff's 2001 target budget to the Fire Coordinator's target budget to pay these dispatchers, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Representatives recognized that the dispatchers spent approximately 60 percent of their time performing duties for the Sheriff's Department that are unrelated to dispatching, and

WHEREAS, \$145,604 was included in the 2001 Contingent Fund to hire replacement personnel at the Sheriff's Department to assume these duties, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees, That \$143,375 be appropriated from the 2001 Contingent Fund for the Sheriff's Department to hire new personnel,

RESOLVED, further, That the Sheriff's 2002 permanent target budget be increased by \$136,875 for the ongoing costs of these additional employees and that the 2002 target for the Contingent Fund be lowered by \$145,604.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**RESOLUTION NO.      CREATION OF DEPUTY SHERIFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,  
EXPANSION OF CLERICAL POSITIONS FROM 35 TO 40 HOURS– SHERIFF’S  
DEPARTMENT**

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, four Sheriff’s Dispatchers have been transferred to the Fire Coordinator’s Office, effective January 1, 2001 and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Sheriff’s Department will need to hire personnel to cover the duties performed by the Sheriff Dispatchers that have been transferred, and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committee approved \$143,375 to be appropriated from the 2001 Contingent Fund for the Sheriff’s Department to hire the new personnel and provide for any other necessary staffing resource changes, and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator, Personnel Commissioner and Sheriff were charged with the responsibility of developing a plan for the necessary staffing coverage and said plan has been developed and submitted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, that one position of Deputy Sheriff, (43-412), 40 hours per week and one position of Administrative Assistant, labor grade (40-410), 40 hours per week, are created effective January 1, 2001,

RESOLVED, further, that the four current civil office positions at the Sheriffs Department be changed from 35 to 40 hours per week, effective January 1, 2001,

RESOLVED, further, that the funding necessary for this resolution has been appropriated by separate resolution.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**RESOLUTION NO.      - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENCY FUND – INTERIM FUNDING TO  
REPLACE LOSS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) GRANT  
MONIES FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - OFFICE OF JUSTICE  
PROGRAMS**

It was Moved by Mrs. Schuler, seconded by Mr. Joseph and unanimously adopted by voice vote. Ms. Robinson stated that this is the fourth consecutive grant received by the County.

WHEREAS, VAWA funds presently support the staff positions and related expenses of Domestic Violence Services Coordinator (1 FTE), Legal Advocate (1 FTE), and Domestic Violence Educator (.25 FTE) at the Task Force For Battered Women, all of which are vital to the agency’s Legal Advocacy Program which provides domestic violence victims accompaniment to court, helps them obtain family and criminal Orders of Protection, stays by their side through lengthy court trials, and is a source of information and support to non-offending family members and friends, and through which our courts have been better able to protect victims and punish offenders (it has served over 500 people in the three years since the program began), and

WHEREAS it is not known at this point when further VAWA funds might become available to the County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Health and Human Services and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees, That the County appropriate \$20,000 for County Budget year 2001 from the Contingency Fund to the County Administration budget to provide interim funding to assure continuity of staffing and services at the Task Force For Battered Women for the period January 1– March 31, 2001 (using current pro-rated agency budget amounts), or until such time the County can secure a grant under VAWA or the agency can identify replacement monies;

RESOLVED, further that if VAWA funding is received covering this January to March time period retroactively, these funds will be returned to the County in full;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Task Force for Battered Women shall provide a written report for each monthly meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee;

RESOLVED, further that the Director of Finance is directed to make the following adjustments to his books for 2001:

From: Contingency Fund	1990.44400	\$20,000
To: County Administration	3989.54442	\$20,000

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Meskill distributed the jail statistics, these are on file with the original minutes. He indicated that the jail population is on the rise, but still lower than this same time last year.

Ms. Blanchard distributed an article on the new Cayuga County Jail and noted they are planning to house inmates from neighboring counties. Mr. Meskill said that Cayuga County added 120 beds to their facility and will have over 200 beds once construction is complete. It will also have a 20-bed forensic/mental health ward.

Mr. Meskill reported that Undersheriff Haus, Sergeant Covert and Deputy Lampman recently went to Albany and accepted a Safe and Sober Award from the Department of Criminal Justice. Tompkins County was one of eleven agencies statewide recognized for traffic safety. He said that he is still working to find out why the Governor's Traffic Safety Board did not fund the \$4,000 grant request for the speed trailer. He said that the snowmobile trailer is being assembled and the toboggan has been delivered. Two officers will attend a four-day training in January to learn various rescue operations and patrol functions related to snow. He noted several deputies and investigators are scheduled to attend interview school which is being sponsored by Broome County. Deputy Patchey will be joining the department next week. He currently works part-time for the Groton Police Department and full-time for the Cortland City Police Department. He will be replacing Dan Drew who retired, and another officer, Leon Anderson, will be joining the department the first week in January. Mr. Anderson will be transferring in from Seneca County.

**RESOLUTION NO. - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND FOR REPLACEMENT PAY AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has had several employees who were disabled or injured and unable to perform their duty, and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Policy of Tompkins County allows for such replacement pay for employees who have been out longer than two months, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees, That the Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$113,203 to the Sheriff's budget for replacement pay for the period of August 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000,

RESOLVED, further, That the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	Contingent Fund	A1990.54400	\$113,203
TO:	Uniform Division	A3113.51000 Regular Pay	47,932
		A3113.58800 Fringe	11,983
	Corrections Division	A3150.51000 Regular Pay	42,630
		A3150.58800 Fringe	10,658

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

**RESOLUTION NO.        - APPROPRIATION FROM CONTINGENT FUND - TERMINAL PAY AT THE  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

It was Moved by Mr. Joseph, seconded by Ms. Blanchard and unanimously adopted by voice vote.

WHEREAS, a staff member of the Sheriff's Office resigned and has received terminal pay at a total of \$14,462,  
and

WHEREAS, Section 5.03(B) of the County Fiscal Policy describes Departmental Entitlements, including  
contingent fund requests for the unbudgeted costs of terminal pay for employees, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety and Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees, That the  
Director of Finance appropriate a total of \$14,462 to the Sheriff's budget for terminal pay,

RESOLVED, further, That the money be distributed to the following accounts:

FROM:	Contingent Fund	A1990.54400	\$14,462
TO:	Criminal Investigations	A3112.51000 Reg. Pay	11,570
		A3112.58800 Fringe	2,892

RESOLVED, further, That this adjustment is for 2000 and does not affect the Fiscal Target for 2001.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20**

Mrs. Schuler noted the good job the Sheriff's Department has been doing with the disabled parking spaces  
around the county and the media attention that has been brought to this issue.

Mr. Joseph asked that the transport and overtime information be removed from the Sheriff's statistics noting that  
while they were of interest in prior years, they do not seem to be necessary at this time.

**APPOINTMENTS**

It was Moved by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Schuler and unanimously adopted by voice vote to approve the  
following appointments:

**Stop-DWI Advisory Board**

Laura Barnhill - District Attorney Representative - Term expiring December 31, 2002

**Family Court Advisory Council**

Maureen Reedy - At-large Representative - Term expiring December 31, 2003

Gale Smith - Youth Board Representative - Term expiring December 31, 2003

**Criminal Justice Advisory/Alternatives to Incarceration Board**

Peter Meskill - Tompkins County Sheriff - Term expiring December 31, 2003

Kathryn Leinthall - Probation Department - Term expiring December 31, 2003

**Traffic Safety Board**

Ward Hungerford - Highway Division Representative - Term expiring December 31, 2003

Edward Abruzzo - State Police Representative - Term expiring December 31, 2003

**OTHER**

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to comment on the intermunicipal cooperation received recently by his department. He stated that a windstorm recently knocked the power out at the transfer facility. Thanks to the Village of Groton Electric Department power was completely restored within two hours of the outage being reported.

Ms. Blanchard stated that she has spoke with Mr. Totman about a number of things that have happened at the COMCAP committee and the relationship they have to this committee. She said that since most of the members on this committee with the exception of Mrs. Schuler are on the COMCAP Committee, that rather than provide a monthly report at this committee that it would be better to send copies of the COMCAP Committee minutes to Mrs. Schuler. It was the consensus of the Committee to have Ms. Blanchard do this.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled in 2001.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Luu, Administrative Assistant, Board of Representatives office.